PATENT

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-19 stand rejected. Claim 20-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. This application continues to include claims 1-31.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Martin, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,272,551 B1 (hereinafter, Martin). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-19 in view of the following.

Martin is directed to a method for transmitting a network packet formatted in accordance with a first protocol over a network that operates in accordance with a second, different protocol (col. 1, lines 8-10). Martin discloses that a host device 40 is coupled to a network adapter 60 via a first communications link 66, and that network adapter 60 is coupled to a network communication medium 70, part of a power line network 74, by a second communications link 68 (col. 3, lines 7-25).

Host device 40 includes a network adapter driver 46 that facilitates the repackaging and moving of data between network protocol stacks of host device 40 and network adapter 60 (col. 3, lines 32-58). Network adapter 60 includes a network packet translation module 62, a buffer memory 72, and a PHY (physical layer) interface 64 that provides the physical connection to network communications medium 70 through second communications link 68 (col. 4, lines 20-32). Network adapter 60 is configured to provide host device 40 with network connectivity through a parallel port 50, for connectivity through a PCI bus, a USB bus, or an ISA bus (col. 4, lines 38-49).

Applicants believe that claims 1-19 patentably define Applicants' invention over Martin, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer network. Claim 1 recites at least one host computer; at least one peripheral device; and a microprocessorless network adapter interconnecting said at least one host computer and said at least one peripheral device.

Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a network adapter interconnecting the at least one host computer and that at least one peripheral device, much less a microprocessorless network adapter interconnecting the at least one host computer and the at least one peripheral device.

For example, although Martin discloses a network adapter 60, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest sufficient information about the inner workings of network adapter 60 as would disclose, teach, or suggest that network adapter 60 is microprocessorless. Although Martin discloses that network adapter 60 includes a network packet translation module 62, a buffer memory 72, and a PHY (physical layer) interface 64, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest that such components are microprocessorless, and does not otherwise disclose, teach, or suggest that network adapter 60 is microprocessorless.

In addition, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the network adapter 60 interconnects host device 40 and at least one peripheral device. For example, although Martin discloses that network adapter 60 is configured to provide host device 40 with network connectivity through a parallel port 50, or through other interfaces for connectivity through a PCI bus, a USB bus, or an ISA bus (col. 4, lines 38-49), Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the connectivity is provided as between host device 40 and at least one peripheral device via network adapter 60.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons as set forth above, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a microprocessorless network adapter interconnecting the at least one host computer and the at least one peripheral device.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, and hence, that claim 1 is allowable in its present form.

Claims 2-13, are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 1. In addition, claims 2-13 further and patentably define the invention over Martin.

For example, claim 3 is directed to the network of claim 2, further comprising a USB hub interconnecting said at least one peripheral device and said network adapter.

In contrast to claim 3, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest a USB hub.

In addition, for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device.

Accordingly Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a USB hub interconnecting the at least one peripheral device the said network adapter.

Thus, claim 3 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 4 is directed to the network of claim 3, wherein said at least one peripheral device comprises a plurality of peripheral devices, said adapter being configured to support said plurality of peripheral devices.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device, and hence, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a plurality of peripheral devices.

Accordingly, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a network adapter being configured to support a plurality of peripheral devices, as recited in claim 4.

Thus, claim 4 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 5 is directed to the network of claim 4, wherein each said peripheral device has a unique network address.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device, and hence, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein each peripheral device has a unique network address, as recited in claim 5.

Accordingly, claim 5 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 6 is directed to the network of claim 5, wherein each said unique network address comprises a unique internet protocol address.

As set forth above with respect to claim 5, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein each peripheral device has a unique network address, and hence, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein each unique network address comprises a unique internet protocol address, as recited in claim 6.

Accordingly, claim 6 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 7 is directed to the network of claim 6, further comprising a remotely attached host computer including one of a device driver and a utility, each said unique internet protocol address being assigned by said one of a device driver and a utility.

Although Martin discloses that host device 40 includes a network adapter driver 46 that facilitates the repackaging and moving of data between network protocol stacks of host device 40 and network adapter 60 (col. 3, lines 32-58), and that network adapter 60 is configured to provide host device 40 with network connectivity through a parallel port 50, or

through other interfaces for connectivity through a PCI bus, a USB bus, or an ISA bus (col. 4, lines 38-49), Martin does <u>not</u> disclose, teach, or suggest a remotely attached host computer including one of a device driver and a utility, <u>each said unique internet protocol address being assigned by said one of a device driver and a utility</u>, as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, claim 7 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 8 is directed to the network of claim 5, wherein said adapter is configured to route data to and from said peripheral devices using said unique network addresses.

As set forth above with respect to claim 5, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device, much less a peripheral device having a unique network address. It thus logically follows that Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to route data <u>to and from the peripheral devices</u> using the unique network addresses.

Accordingly, claim 8 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 9 is directed to the network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to manage power on said at least one peripheral device.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device.

In addition, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to manage power on another device, much less on the at least one peripheral device.

Accordingly, claim 9 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 10 is directed to the network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to send said at least one peripheral device at least one command to go into a low-power sleep mode until said adapter detects inbound data bound for said at least one peripheral device.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device.

In addition, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to send at least one peripheral device any commands, much less at least one command to go into a low-power sleep mode until the adapter detects inbound data bound for the at least one peripheral device.

Accordingly, claim 10 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 11 is directed to network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to at least one of send a wake-up command to said at least one peripheral device and verify an active status of said at least one peripheral device before accepting the inbound data.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device.

In addition, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to at least one of send a wake-up command to the at least one peripheral device and verify an active status of the at least one peripheral device before accepting the inbound data.

Accordingly, claim 11 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 12 is directed to the network of claim 1, wherein said adapter is configured to perform automatic USB enumeration.

Although Martin discloses that network adapter 60 is configured to provide host device 40 with network connectivity through a parallel port 50, or through other interfaces for connectivity through a PCI bus, a USB bus, or an ISA bus (col. 4, lines 38-49), Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest, that the adapter is configured to perform automatic USB enumeration.

Accordingly, claim 12 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 13 is directed to the network of claim 12, wherein said enumeration is performed without software.

As set forth above with respect to claim 12, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to perform automatic USB enumeration.

In addition, Martin simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein any USB enumeration is performed without software.

Accordingly, claim 13 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 14 is directed to a network adapter. Claim 14 recites at least one application specific integrated circuit; and support electronics, wherein said adapter is microprocessorless.

For substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is microprocessorless.

Accordingly, claim 14 is believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 15-19 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 14. In addition, claims 15-19 further and patentably define the invention over Martin.

For example, claim 16 is directed to the adapter of claim 14, wherein said adapter is configured to interconnect at least one peripheral device and at least one host computer.

For substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to interconnect at least one peripheral device and at least one host computer.

Accordingly, claim 16 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 17 is directed to the adapter of claim 14, wherein said adapter is configured to detect inbound data; process the inbound data; and pass the processed data to at least one peripheral device.

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest a peripheral device. It thus logically follows that Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest wherein the adapter is configured to detect inbound data; process the inbound data; and pass the processed data to at least one peripheral device.

Accordingly, claim 17 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 18 is directed to the adapter of claim 14, wherein said application specific integrated circuit is configured to perform automatic USB enumeration.

Claim 18 is believed allowable in its own right for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 12.

Claim 19 is directed to the adapter of claim 18, wherein said enumeration is performed without software.

Claim 19 is believed allowable in its own right for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 13.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Martin does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-19, and thus respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the appended claims. The appended claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,

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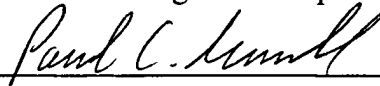Facsimile: 317-894-0803

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 17, 2006.

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January 17, 2006
Date